

4-13-2021

## COVID-19 Newsletter (vol. 67)

Center for Disaster Medicine, New York Medical College

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# NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE

A MEMBER OF THE Touro College and University System

## Center for Disaster Medicine



**Tuesday, April 6, 2021**

***During this COVID-19 pandemic and other future events, the CDM has been and will continue to be a source of reliable information, education and models for mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. We hope this informational document has helped provide you filtered and actionable information. As the pace of new information and changes occur, we will evaluate the current once per week to determine if this information should be provided on a more frequent basis.***

David Markenson, M.D., M.B.A.

Director

Center for Disaster Medicine

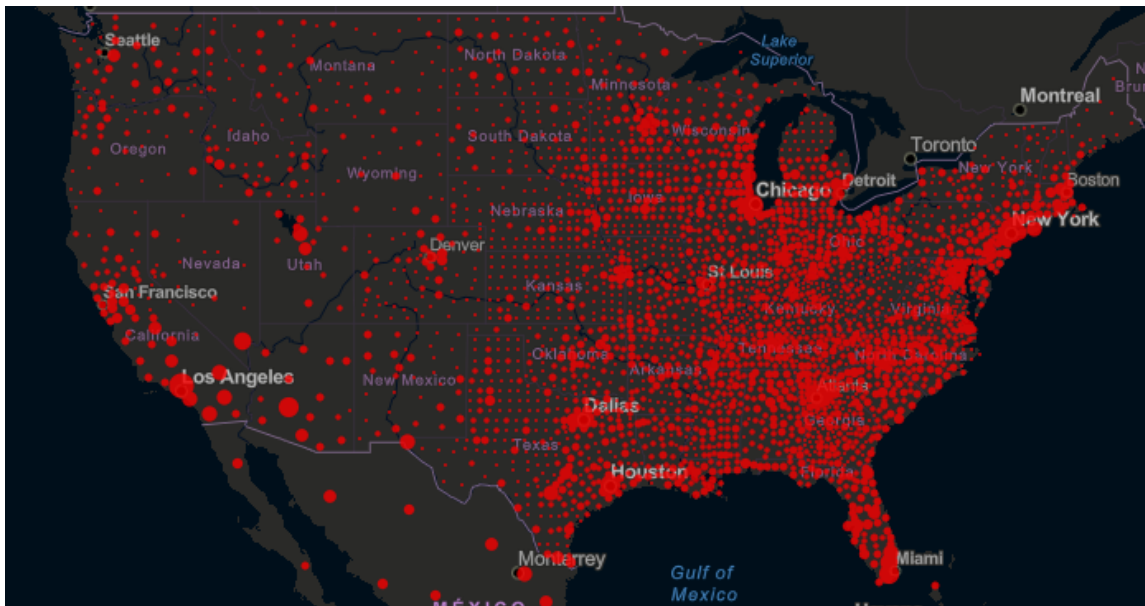
### **COVID-19 Statistics**

	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Recovered	Total Tested

Worldwide	136,744,941	2,948,317	77,894,038	Not Available
United States	31,268,952	562,608	Not Available	408,992,581
New Jersey	955,958	24,896	Not Available	12,695,164
New York	1,962,225	51,204	Not Available	47,601,711
Connecticut	324,571	7,957	Not Available	7,567,112

Information as of 4/13/21 at 0700 EDT. Source: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

### **United States COVID-19 Case Map / GIS**



**Center for Disaster Medicine Updates**

- Collaborated with NYMC medical students and on April 6, 2021, presented at NYMC Medical Student Research Seminar regarding “Drawing Parallels between Public Health Crises and COVID-19”
- Delivered Geriatric Emergency Medical Services (GEMS) course to members of different public safety agencies from New York.
- Presented invited lecture regarding COVID-19 response and best practices to graduate students enrolled in Master in Homeland Security degree in Guatemala.
- Coordinating and overseeing COVID-19 screenings at NYMC campus
- Continue to partner with local organizations such as Westchester Department of Emergency Services and Westchester Medical Center to ensure ongoing collaboration with all public safety agencies.
- Coordinating volunteers to support local public health response to COVID-19.
- Conducting research and analysis of current events and COVID-19 response to identify strengths and areas for improvement in other regions.
- Updating and developing new programs to provide enhanced education on public health emergencies including pandemics.
- Exploring course development opportunities in infection prevention and control for frontline responders in the hospital and in the field.
- Serving as a source of information for COVID-19 related concerns or questions regarding public health, emergency medical service (EMS), public safety and healthcare response.
- Local networking and pandemic response analysis for New York’s tri-state area, using first-person experiences to highlight current trends.

**To view the Center for Disaster Medicine's newest webinar, please click here - [The COVID-19 Vaccine: What to Tell Your Patients](#)**

## **Federal**

- The White House released a report on the potential for inflation with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic and how it will impact daily living. The report noted, “in the next several months we expect measured inflation to increase somewhat, primarily due to three different temporary factors: base effects, supply chain disruptions, and pent-up demand, especially for services. We expect these three factors will likely be transitory, and that their impact should fade over time as the economy recovers from the pandemic. After that, the longer-term trajectory of inflation is in large part a function of inflationary expectations. Here, too, we see some increase, but from historically low to more normal levels.” Find the full report at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/blog/2021/04/12/pandemic-prices-assessing-inflation-in-the-months-and-years-ahead/>

## **The White House**

The official website of the White House delivers bold action and immediate relief for American families as the country grapples with converging crises. This includes actions to control the COVID-19 pandemic, provide economic relief, tackle climate change, and advance racial equity and civil rights, as well as immediate actions to reform our immigration system and restore America's standing in the world.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov>

## **Health and Human Services (HHS)**

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra announced that all HRSA-funded health centers and Health Center Program look-alikes (LALs) will now be invited to participate in the Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program. These health centers will have the opportunity to join the program as soon as they are ready, increasing the total number of health centers that have been invited to 1,470 nationwide. This expansion will be made through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/04/07/hhs-secretary-xavier-becerra-announces-expansion-of-covid-19-vaccine-program-to-all-community-health-centers-across-the-country.html>

For the latest COVID-19 information from HHS

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/coronavirus/index.html>

## **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting people with or at risk for HIV both indirectly, by interfering with HIV treatment and prevention services, and directly, by threatening individual health. An effective response to these dual pandemics requires unprecedented collaboration to accelerate basic and clinical research, as well as implementation science to expeditiously introduce evidence-based strategies into real-world settings. This message comes from a review article co-authored by Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health, and colleagues published in the Journal of Infectious Diseases.

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-experts-call-accelerated-research-address-concurrent-hiv-covid-19-pandemics>

A clinical trial is underway to determine whether people who are highly allergic or have a mast cell disorder are at increased risk for an immediate, systemic allergic reaction to the Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines. A systemic allergic reaction to a vaccine occurs in one or more parts of the body beyond the injection site. If such an allergic reaction occurs in study participants, investigators will assess whether the reactions are more frequent in participants who are highly allergic or have a mast cell disorder than in participants with no allergic history. In addition, investigators will examine the biological mechanism behind the reactions and whether a genetic pattern or other factors can predict who is at most risk.

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-begins-study-allergic-reactions-moderna-pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccines>

View the latest COVID-19 information from NIH

<https://www.nih.gov/coronavirus>

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## **United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA)**

As of April 9, 2021, 354 tests and sample collection devices are authorized by the FDA under emergency use authorizations (EUAs). These include 258 molecular tests and sample collection devices, 75 antibody and other immune response tests, and 21 antigen tests. There are 43 molecular authorizations and 1 antibody authorization that can be used with home-collected samples. There is one molecular prescription at-home test, two antigen prescription at-home test, four over-the-counter (OTC) at-home antigen test, and one OTC molecular test. The FDA has authorized 6 antigen tests and 1 molecular test for serial screening programs.

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-april-9-2021>

Each April we celebrate National Minority Health Month and this year's theme is "Vaccine Ready." There are many questions about how we effectively diagnose, treat, and prevent COVID-19, which continues to disproportionately impact racial and ethnic minority communities, Tribal communities, and other diverse groups. Many Black and Hispanic Americans have been getting vaccinated against COVID-19 at lower rates than white Americans, but are more likely to contract COVID-19, be hospitalized, and die from the disease.

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/fda-voices/vaccine-ready-addressing-covid-19-health-disparities-among-racial-and-ethnic-minority-communities>

For the latest overall FDA information about COVID-19.

<https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/counterterrorism-and-emerging-threats/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

## **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

The Advanced Molecular Detection (program established the SARS-CoV-2 Sequencing for Public Health Emergency Response, Epidemiology and Surveillance (SPHERES) to coordinate SARS-CoV-2 sequencing. The SPHERES collaboration includes scientists from clinical and public health laboratories, academic institutions, and the private sector. SPHERES will strengthen COVID-19 mitigation strategies.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/spheres.html>

The emerging variants CDC is closely monitoring have mutations in the virus genome that alter the characteristics and cause the virus to act differently in ways that are significant to public health (e.g., causes more severe disease, spreads more easily between humans, requires different treatments, changes the effectiveness of current vaccines). It is important to understand that genetic mutations are expected, and some variants can spread and become predominant while others subside.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/transmission/variant-cases.html>

CDC provides daily data tracker which has maps and charts tracking cases, deaths, and trends of COVID-19 in the United States- updated daily by 8 p.m. ET.

<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home>

For the latest CDC information

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/index.html>

## **Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)**

View the latest information from CMS

<https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Emergency/EPRO/Current-Emergencies/Current-Emergencies-page>

## **Vaccines**

In this section, vaccine-related information from various sources will be collected, reviewed, and tabulated here. As of April 13, 2021, the FDA has granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to Pfizer BioNTech, Moderna and Janssen/Johnson & Johnson. Now with three vaccines with EUA, the goal is to vaccinate a larger number of persons in the coming months throughout the United States. As additional vaccines are granted EUA, information for those vaccines will also be included.

CDC provides update on “How to talk about COVID-19 vaccines with friends and family.” COVID-19 vaccines are new, and it’s normal for people to have questions about them. The sheer amount of information—and misinformation—about COVID-19 vaccines can be overwhelming to anyone.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/talk-about-vaccines.html>

CDC provides overall U.S. COVID-19 Vaccine, deliveries and administration, maps, charts, and data updated daily by 8 p.m.. This section represents all vaccine partners including jurisdictional partner clinics, retail pharmacies, long-term care facilities, Federal Emergency Management Agency and Health Resources and Services Administration partner sites, and federal entity facilities.

<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations>

As of April 12, more than 6.8 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine have been administered in the U.S. CDC and FDA are reviewing data involving six reported U.S. cases of a rare and severe type of blood clot in individuals after receiving the J&J vaccine.

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/joint-cdc-and-fda-statement-johnson-johnson-covid-19-vaccine>

CDC created this section regarding the Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine to provide updated relevant information including side effects and safety data, clinical trials demographic statistics, and information on how the vaccine works.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/janssen.html>

CDC created this section regarding the Moderna vaccine to provide updated relevant information including side effects and safety data, clinical trials demographic statistics, and information on how the vaccine works.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/Moderna.html>

CDC created this section regarding the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine to provide updated relevant information including side effects and safety data, clinical trials demographic statistics, and information on how the vaccine works.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/Pfizer-BioNTech.html>

HHS created this section to provide the latest information about COVID-19 vaccines.

<https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/index.html>

The NYS DOH COVID-19 Vaccine Tracker Dashboard will update New Yorkers on the distribution of the vaccine including the number of doses received by the state, a



breakdown of first or second doses, and the number of persons vaccinated with the first and second doses in each region.

<https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/covid-19-vaccine-tracker>

NYS DOH releases instructions for New York State-operated vaccination sites

<https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>

For NYC DOHMH updated guidance regarding COVID-19 vaccine

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-vaccines.page>

The Vaccine Finder is a one-stop site for New Yorkers to find their nearest COVID-19 vaccination location. The Vaccine Finder can also provide New Yorkers with information to schedule vaccination appointments.

<https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov/>

## **Educational Institution Information**

- Higher Education
  - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention awarded the American College Health Association \$450,000 to launch a new Higher Education COVID-19 Community of Practice aimed at sharing information across campuses about strategies for containing the coronavirus. The new effort will focus on steps colleges can take to control virus spread. Elements of the community of practice -- essentially an online repository of resources -- include a discussion board and a twice-monthly webinar series, both of which have already launched, as well as a planned tool kit for campuses interested in creating student public health ambassador programs. Other elements will include a searchable online database where colleges can upload information about their practices.  
<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2021/04/13/cdc-funds-info-clearinghouse-colleges-fighting-covid>
- K-12
  - Governor Ned Lamont of Connecticut announced that his administration is launching a new state program aimed at engaging with K-12 students who struggled with absenteeism and disengagement during the 2020-21 school year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The initiative, known as the Learner Engagement and Attendance Program (LEAP), will include a partnership between the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and the six state Regional Education Service Centers (RESCs) that will target 15 school districts throughout Connecticut. Funds will go to increasing people power who will be deployed to homes to directly engage with families and students to provide support. Connecticut's RESCs will coordinate this work with school district officials, local community organizations, and other state service providers, and will be deployed to homes to engage with families and provide support. <https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2021/04-2021/Governor-Lamont-Launches-State-Initiative-To-Address-Student-Absenteeism-and-Disengagement>

## Clinical Trials

To view the latest information on clinical trials regarding COVID-19

<https://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/results?recrs=&cond=Covid19&term=&cntry=&state=&city=&dist=>

## American Red Cross

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/donate-blood/dlp/plasma-donations-from-recovered-covid-19-patients.html>

## State Updates

### New York

- Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced that, as part of the FY 2022 Enacted Budget, direct payments made to families of MTA employees through the COVID family death benefit program will be exempt from State income taxes.  
<http://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-state-tax-break-mta-covid-death-benefits-part-fy-2022-budget>
- Governor Cuomo announced that New York State will provide a new, separate allocation of 35,000 vaccines to address the college student population at SUNY schools and private colleges. This initial allocation will include 21,000 vaccines to be administered to SUNY students and 14,000 vaccines to be administered at private colleges. The vaccines will be administered to residential and non-commuter students who are leaving for the summer. The Governor also announced that the new direct vaccine allocation will, in part, be administered to SUNY students at the state-run mass vaccination sites at Suffolk County Community College in Brentwood and at SUNY Old Westbury in Old Westbury, both on Long Island. Students can make appointments through their schools. These new allocations will allow New York State to more efficiently vaccinate the college student population in partnership with the state's medical providers.  
<http://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-new-york-state-provide-new-separate-allocation-35000-covid-19>

### New York State Department of Health (DOH)

Under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, FEMA will provide financial assistance for COVID-19-related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020.

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/fema-covid-19-funeral-assistance>

Asymptomatic travelers entering New York from another country, U.S. state, or territory are no longer required to test or quarantine as of April 10, 2021. Quarantine, consistent with the CDC recommendations, is still recommended for all travelers who are not fully vaccinated or have not recovered from laboratory confirmed COVID-19 during the previous three months. Symptomatic

travelers must immediately self-isolate and contact the local health department or their healthcare providers to determine if they should seek COVID-19 testing.

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory#overview>

For a list of positive cases by county in New York State

<https://covid19tracker.health.ny.gov/views/NYS-COVID19-Tracker/NYSDOHCOVID-19Tracker-Map?%3Aembed=yes&%3Atoolbar=no&%3Atabs=n>

NYS DOH has created a dynamic COVID-19 Tracker which provides COVID-19 information regarding testing, cases, percentages, and fatalities across New York State. It also breaks down cases by county.

<https://covid19tracker.health.ny.gov/views/NYS-COVID19-Tracker/NYSDOHCOVID-19Tracker-Map?%3Aembed=yes&%3Atoolbar=no&%3Atabs=n>

For the latest COVID-19 information from NYS DOH

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>

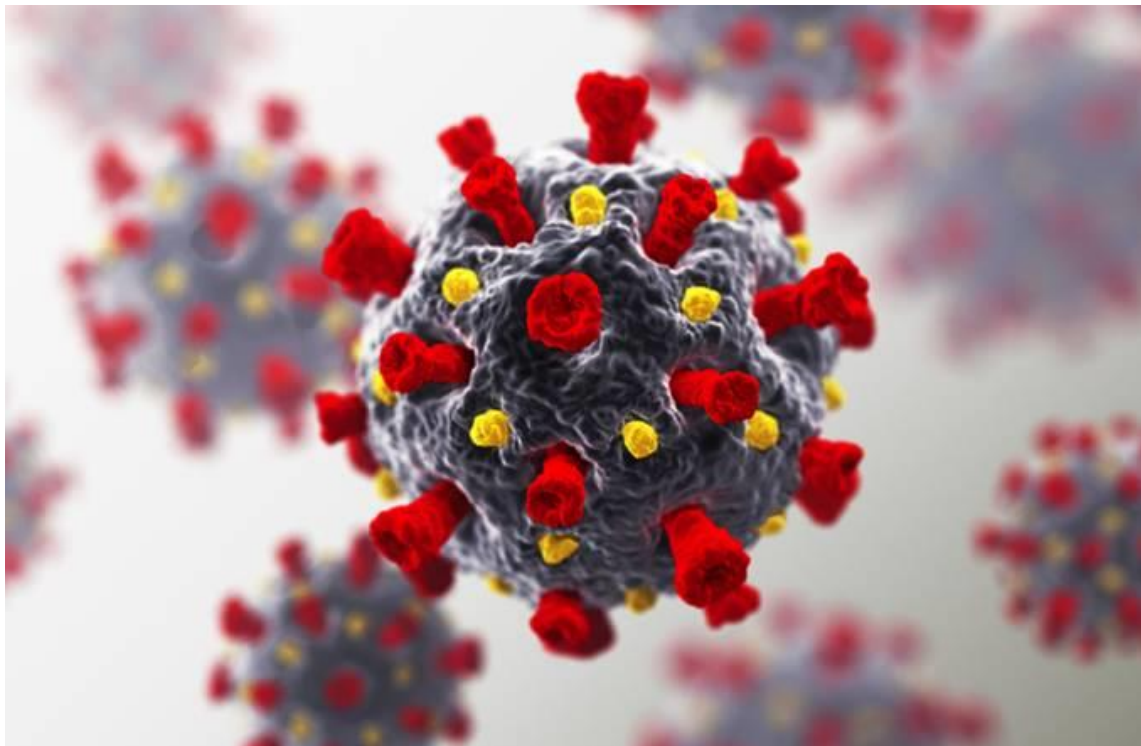
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## New Jersey

- Governor Phil Murphy and State Police Superintendent Colonel Patrick Callahan announced an administrative order which adjusts gathering limits for non-professional and non-collegiate indoor sports activities. The adjustment clarifies that athletes, coaches, up to two parents and guardians per participating athlete under the age of 21, and other individuals necessary for the practice or competition do not count towards the general indoor gathering limit, which is currently 25 persons. The order also allows retail businesses to permit customers to utilize self-service food, such as buffets and salad bars. <https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/ao/docs/AO2021-1.pdf>
- Governor Murphy signed into law S-3521, which provides \$15 million in federal COVID-19 relief aid for arts and cultural venues throughout New Jersey. The bill – sponsored by Senators Joseph Lagana, Dawn Marie Addiego, and Vin Gopal and Assembly Members Linda Carter, Angela McKnight, and Eric Houghtaling – focuses on providing aid to arts and cultural organizations in need of support as a result of the public health emergency. The bill is part of a five-bill, \$100 million relief effort aimed at helping New Jersey's small businesses recover from the year-long pandemic. <https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562021/approved/20210408a.shtml>
- Governor Murphy signed into law A-5444, which provides \$35 million in federal COVID-19 relief aid for restaurants throughout New Jersey. The bill – sponsored by Senators Vin Gopal and Joseph Lagana and Assembly Members Vincent Mazzeo, Pedro Mejia, Christopher Tully, and Louis Greenwald – provides aid to a particularly hard hit sector of New Jersey's economy. The bill is part of a five-bill, \$100 million relief effort aimed at helping New Jersey's small businesses recover from the year-long pandemic. <https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562021/approved/20210409a.shtml>

## Connecticut

- Governor Ned Lamont and Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Commissioner Katie Dykes announced that Connecticut's State Parks system and boat launches are planning to return to providing full services to visitors during the 2021 season, with some state campgrounds opening to campers with reservations immediately. DEEP's operation plan for this season was developed consistent with current guidance for the prevention of SARS-CoV-2 transmission (the virus that causes COVID-19) and based in consultation with the Connecticut Department of Public Health. It was also informed by guidance on state parks and recreation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The plan will be updated as new information and operational conditions require. <https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2021/04-2021/Governor-Lamont-Announces-Plans-at-Connecticut-State-Parks-for-the-2021-Outdoor-Recreation-Season>



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## Local Updates

### New York Blood Center (NYBC)

For the latest updated NYBC information about COVID-19:

<https://nybc.org/covid-19/>

## **New York City (NYC) Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)**

For NYC DOHMH updated COVID-19 data page

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data.page>

For the latest COVID-19 information from NYC DOHMH

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-main.page>

## **Westchester County Department of Health**

For the latest breakdown of positive cases in Westchester County as of April 11, 2021

<https://wcgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/280339d96db14efd9cc304dba0f3a71d>

For the latest COVID-19 information in Westchester including how to avoid the latest vaccine scams offering earlier access to vaccines.

<https://health.westchestergov.com/2019-novel-coronavirus>

## **Putnam County Department of Health**

Breakdown of positive cases by towns in Putnam County as of April 8, 2021-

<https://www.putnamcountyny.com/covid19/>

For the latest COVID-19 information

<https://www.putnamcountyny.com/health/coronavirus/>

## **Dutchess County Department of Health**

Breakdown of positive cases in Dutchess County as of April 13, 2021

<https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/DBCH/covid-19-dashboard.htm>

For the latest COVID-19 information:

<https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/DBCH/2019-Novel-Coronavirus.htm>

## **Orange County Department of Health**

Updated COVID-19 dashboard for Orange County, NY as of April 7, 2021

<https://ocnygis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/21de1fb5ce0c480f95dc0cf2b8b83b71>

For the latest COVID-19 information

<https://www.orangecountygov.com/1906/2019-Novel-Coronavirus-Information>

## **Rockland County Department of Health**

Review Rockland County's dashboard with the latest COVID-19 information regarding cases as of April 12, 2021

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/d074e0336e81449393a76d1768ceb096>

For the latest COVID-19 information

<https://rocklandgov.com/departments/health/coronavirus-covid-19/>

## Healthcare

For the latest COVID-19 information for healthcare facilities from the Greater New York Hospital Association that covers hospitals in the tri-state area.

<https://www.gnyha.org/>



## Center for Disaster Medicine Media

### **New York Medical College Leadership News:**

#### **When Will Kids Get COVID-19 Vaccines? Experts Share a Timeline to Keep In Mind**

Good Housekeeping

4/8/2021

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/health/a36053475/when-will-kids-get-covid-19-vaccines/>

Robert W. Amler, M.D., M.B.A., dean of the School of Health Sciences and Practice and vice president for government affairs

#### **CDC Says Travel Is Low Risk If You're Fully Vaccinated**

Healthline

4/7/2021

<https://www.healthline.com/health-news/cdc-says-travel-is-low-risk-if-youre-fully-vaccinated#What-about-international-travel?>

Robert W. Amler, M.D., M.B.A., dean of the School of Health Sciences and Practice and vice president for government affairs

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